STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1188

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 2 0 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 91

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 91 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ADVANCE LEGISLATION AND SUPPORT POLICIES THAT SAFEGUARD INDIVIDUALS IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR LIVESTOCK AND OTHER PROPERTY, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS UNDER THEIR EMPLOYMENT OR CARE BY AMENDING THE STATE'S SELF-DEFENSE LAWS TO DEPRIORITIZE THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES."

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for agricultural biosecurity and the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species in Maui County.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture University of Hawai'i System, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Molokai Subcommittee of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui, one member of the Maui County Council, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Mālama Learning Center, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee recognizes that the jurisdiction of Maui County covers three islands: Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Your Committee finds that Molokai lacks a quarantine facility, there is no island invasive species committee on Lanai, and both islands historically have not had dedicated state agricultural inspectors. Your Committee further recognizes that the cost of controlling invasive species after they become established is significantly higher than the cost of prevention and early intervention. According to testimony received by your Committee, pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog have not yet been detected on Molokai or Lanai, making prevention efforts all the more urgent. This measure aims to safeguard local agriculture and also preserve the environment of the islands in Maui County as repositories for native species and agricultural biodiversity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 91 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

MIKE GABBARD. Chair

The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee	Referral:	Date:			
SCR91	AEN,	JDC		03-17-25		
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is:						
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313						
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused	
GABBARD, Mike (C)						
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)		X				
DECOITE, Lynn		<u> </u>				
RHOADS, Karl				X		
AWA, Brenton		X				
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TOTAL		4				
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted						
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy						

^{*}Only one measure per Record of Votes